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Disability Commission Minutes 10/20/04

ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2004

Members Present: Lin Baker, Tom Boudreau, Barbara Cutler,
 Joe Giurleo, Barbara Jones, Louis Krodel,
 Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Others Present: Chief Fred Ryan, Arlington Police

Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2004:

Kevin made a motion to accept the minutes of September 15, 2004 seconded by Tom. SO
 VOTED

Issues pertaining to the Police Department:

Jack expressed concern regarding the length of time Tri-State, the town's signal maintenance contractor, has taken to replace defective audible pedestrian signals. Chief Ryan said that the contract language between the Town and Tri-State would need to be reviewed. Chief Ryan said that if changes in the contract language do not reduce the time period for replacement of defective audible signals than the Town should consider developing an inventory of a few audible pedestrian signals. Barbara J. said that the signals do not become defective that often and that the material cost to replace a signal is approximately \$400 each. Chief Ryan also said that he would review practices of how other communities handle the replacement of audible pedestrian signals. Barbara J. suggested that Tri-State consider the purchase of audible pedestrian signals from a Rhode Island vendor instead of the California vendor that Tri-State currently uses.

Tom expressed concern about the traffic lights at the intersection of Mystic Street and Mass. Avenue. Kevin said that the Transportation Advisory Committee is reviewing the traffic signals at this intersection.

Barbara C. expressed concern about the removal of snow from sidewalks. Chief Ryan said that Brian Sullivan, Town Manager, has requested that the Police Department review Town Policy pertaining to enforcement of snow removal. Chief Ryan said that business and residential owners have 24 hours after a storm to clear their sidewalk.

Commission Members expressed concern about enforcement of unauthorized use of handicapped parking in private lots. Chief Ryan said that criminal laws are enforced on private property but would need to research if ticketing for parking violations on private property were an enforceable offense.

In summary Chief Ryan said that he will review sidewalk access especially during winter conditions, enforcement to prevent the overgrowth of shrubs and bushes on sidewalks, the issue of snow removal at the Video Horizon Store, the issue of Wallex Glass parking on the sidewalk in front of their store, the issue of a dumpster regularly being placed on the sidewalk next to Brattle Drug, review to see if he is on solid ground regarding ticketing on private property where the public has access, and review the contract with Tri-State to see if the contract can be tightened in order to reduce the time period for replacement of audible signals.

Chief Ryan offered to provide time at roll call for a representative from the Disability Commission to talk to Patrol Officers regarding sensitivity to disability issues.

Accessibility Issues Peirce Elementary School:

Jack said that Stefan Chaires, Project Manager of Drummey Rosane Anderson Inc., has said that the Town will be updated on the progress of accessibility concerns at the Peirce School by November 15, 2004. Jack said that the issues that still need to be addressed are curb cuts, walkway on the Park Ave. Ext. side of the building and the circular ramp.

Curb Cut Work:

Jack updated Commission Members on the progress of curb cut work along Mass. Avenue. Jack said that of three lists of curb cut and sidewalk work given to the contractor two lists have been completed. The contractor said the third list would be completed by the end of November.

Town Hall Web Site:

Jack said that all the minutes and agenda's since January 2004 are on the Disability Commission Web Site. In addition the Commission By-Laws and Annual Town Report submission for FY 2004 have been included as additional links. Jack said that he intends to include several additional links over the next few months.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that the Texas Republican Platform is attempting to eliminate the ADA.

Other Business:

Jack said that during calendar year 2003, 152 tickets were given out for unauthorized use of a handicapped space. From 1/1/04 through 10/15/04 194 tickets have been issued.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.